Obama'08
BarackObama.com

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To Whom It May Concern:

As you might have seen, vicious smears are being circulated in anonymous emails attacking Senator Obama's patriotism. These accusations are outrageous. As retired generals in the U.S. military and civilians who have served at the highest levels in the Department of Defense, we know something about patriotism, and Senator Obama is one of the most deeply patriotic Americans we know.

What makes Senator Obama patriotic?

We admire his long record of public service. Over the last two decades, he has served the American people as a community organizer, a civil rights lawyer, constitutional law professor, a state senator, and a U.S. senator.

We also admire his strong support for our troops and veterans. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, he has fought to improve care for wounded troops, slash red tape, and reform the disability review process. He also passed legislation to combat homelessness among veterans. As President, he will expand housing vouchers, and launch a new supportive services housing program for at-risk veterans and their families. In addition, he will improve mental health screening and treatment at all levels: from enlistment, to deployment, to reentry into civilian life.

Above all, we admire Senator Obama's courage in putting his convictions ahead of his political prospects by opposing the war in Iraq from the start. In 2002, Obama said the Iraq War could lead to an occupation of "undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences." Today, he's showing the same good judgment by fighting to responsibly end the Iraq War and by standing up to the rush to war with Iran, including opposing the Kyl-Lieberman amendment that would provide cover for an attack on Iran.

Senator Obama's personal history represents the best of the American Dream. His grandfather fought in Patton's army and went to school on the GI Bill. His grandmother worked on a bomber assembly line during World War II. His father crossed an ocean in search of the promise of America. And his mother taught him that America has a place for everyone's dreams.

Senator Obama's attackers are peddling lies and smears because they disagree with his strong opposition to the war in Iraq and the rush to war in Iran. They know that as President, Barack Obama will end the ugly, divisive, slash-and-burn style of politics that they have mastered. To all those trying desperately to discredit Senator Obama's patriotism, take it from us: we have served this nation for decades, and we know a true patriot when we see one. Barack Obama is a patriot. America needs him now.

Sincerely,

Gen. Merrill "Tony" McPeak, USAF (Ret)

Maj. Gen. J. Scott Gration, USAF (Ret)

Richard Danzig, Secretary of the Navy (1998-2001)

Paid for by Obama for America

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